

Fact Sheet

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Situation Report for Media: Multinational Interim Force – Haiti

MIAMI – Following are significant events and activities of the Multinational Interim Force – Haiti (MIF-H) and associated U.S. agencies during the last 24 hours:

- **Presence Patrol Fired Upon:** About 7 p.m. (Haitian time,) last night, a MIF-H Presence Patrol (PP) consisting a U.S. Marine Squad was operating several hundred meters North-west of the Prime Minister's residence came under rifle and automatic weapons fire from gunmen on the rooftop of a nearby building.
 - The Marines returned fire and entered the building.
 - The Marines observed two bodies but did not verify their condition due to the persistent threat.
 - They returned to the vicinity of the PM's residence to link-up with Haitian National Police (HNP) forces there and gain their assistance in appropriate disposition of the bodies.
 - The combined PP then returned to the site of the attack to discover the bodies were gone.
 - About 10 p.m., while still at the site, the combined PP was again fired upon; they broke contact and returned to the Residence, no casualties are known to have occurred in that incident.
 - About 11 p.m. Marines and HNP forces at the PM's residence came under about 40 rounds of fire from unidentified gunmen a few hundred meters NW of the residence.
 - Marines and HNP established a security perimeter defense, and Marines patrolled to identify and interdict the threat; no further threat was identified and the patrol returned about 11:30.
- **Marine Checkpoint in Crossfire:** In another incident, a lone vehicle approached a Marine security location near the port at a high rate of speed last night at approximately 10:00 p.m.
 - As the vehicle approached, the Marines reported gunfire from the east side of La Saline Avenue.
 - The Marines did not return fire.
 - The vehicle stopped in front of the main port gate.
 - Three armed men exited the vehicle and began firing in several directions.
 - When some of the rounds impacted in their vicinity, the Marines returned fire.
 - The gunmen fled the scene on foot.
 - There were no reported casualties.
- **Security Assessments:** The MIF-H continues visits throughout Haiti conducting security assessments and providing security assistance to Haitian government officials.
- **Humanitarian Aid:** MIF-H personnel and humanitarian organizations continue conducting assessments of the humanitarian aid situation. The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) has a fact sheet detailing some of these assessments, titled *Haiti – Complex Emergency* at: <http://www.usaid.gov/haiti>

(more)

- **Civil Affairs:** MIF-H Officials, and representatives of other U.S. Government Agencies continue to coordinate with Haitian authorities to restore stability and the rule of law.
 - Commercial activities are increasing as are pedestrian and vehicle traffic
 - HNP officials are using local media to urge people to refrain from carrying arms until new permitting processes can be implemented.
 - Presence patrols continue activities in support of disarmament and to protect Haitians from acts of violence.
- **Force Statistics:**
 - MIF-H currently consists of approximately 2500 persons, including 1,600 U.S., 500 French, 50 Canadians, and 325 Chilean personnel.
 - U.S. military airlift flights in support of the MIF-H to date total more than 75, carrying nearly 1600 passengers and more than 1900 tons of cargo.
- **DHS Activities:** Department of Homeland Security's Task Force Southeast (HSTF-SE) continue migration interdiction and rescue patrolling, more details at: <http://www.piersystem.com/external/index.cfm?cid=698>
- **French Naval Vessel rescues Haitian migrants:** at 12:30 p.m. yesterday, the French Naval vessel Champlain rescued 28 Haitians from a 6 meter wooden boat less than hundred miles from the south "claw" of Haiti.
 - The migrants said they were attempting to reach Jamaica, and had been sailing for five days.
 - The migrants were in very poor physical condition; the French sailors took them onboard and gave medical and nutritional care.
 - The migrants have been transferred to the French Frigate Ventose, and will be repatriated to Haiti; The French Embassy in Port au Prince is Coordinating with Haitian Officials to complete that action.
- The Commander of the U.S. Southern Command, General James T. Hill conducted a press conference today at the Pentagon. The conference was focused on the activities and Missions of the MIF-H; a transcript will be posted at: <http://www.defenselink.mil/>

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Additional information and previous releases are located at www.southcom.mil